

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005 in connection with the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, and 11 have been canceled. New claims 16-25 have been added.

The Office Action

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection:

Claims 1-4, 11, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,473,316 to Welch.

In regards to claims 1-4, 11 and 13, Welch was stated to disclose a metal hanging device including a first wall (11), having an opening (13) and a second wall (20) spaced from and at least substantially parallel to the first wall (12), wherein the second wall includes a slot (28), wherein the longitudinal axis of the opening (13) is aligned with a longitudinal axis of the slot (28), the second wall (20) being connected to the first wall (11) and a third wall (18) connecting the first and second wall, the third wall (18) being substantially perpendicular to the first and second walls and a fourth wall (12) spaced from and substantially parallel to the second wall and a fifth wall (15) connecting the second and fourth wall. Welch was also deemed to show slot (28) extending into the third wall (18).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the opening in the first wall comprises a linear edge. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the slot in the second wall extends into the third wall. Welch does not teach or suggest openings which have linear upper edges for mounting the rod hanger adapter to a cabinet. Rather, Welch teaches round openings 13, 14 in each flange 11, 12. As shown in Figures 6 and 7 of Welch, the openings 13, 14 are configured to receive wood screws 33, 34 to attach the clip 10 to a panel 2. Welch does not teach or remotely suggest openings which have a linear or upper edge. Welch teaches away from openings with linear upper edges since the openings are configured to receive round screw bodies. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 13 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

With regards to claim 15, Welch was said to disclose a hanging device with a first wall (11) including an opening (13), a second wall (20) spaced from at least

substantially parallel to the first wall (11) wherein the second wall includes a slot (28), the slot extending into a fourth wall (18) which interconnects the first wall (11) to the second wall (20) and a third wall (12) spaced from and at least substantially parallel to the second wall (20) and a fifth wall (15) interconnecting the second wall to the third wall.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the first wall of the rod hanger adapter has a substantially square-shaped opening. As stated above for claim 1, the openings 13, 14, of flanges 11, 12 of Welch are round and are configured to receive wood screws 33, 34. Thus, claim 15 is in condition for allowance. New claims 16-20 have been added to depend from claim 15. Claim 16-20 recite limitations similar to claim 7, 8, 9 and 12. Since claims 16-20 depend from claim 15 which is considered to be in condition for allowance, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,502,942 to Gras et al. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled.

Gras et al. was stated to disclose a hanging device (3) that has a first wall (34) with an opening which includes a linear upper edge, a second wall (32) spaced from and at least substantially parallel to the first wall (34) wherein the second wall includes a slot, a third wall (31) connecting the first wall to the second wall (32) which is substantially perpendicular to the first and second walls and a fourth wall (36) spaced from and substantially parallel to the second wall (32) and a fifth wall (33) connecting the second and the fourth wall, wherein a longitudinal axis of the notch is aligned with a longitudinal axis of the opening.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a slot formed in the second wall extends into the third wall. Gras et al. simply does not teach or suggest a slot which is found in one wall and extends into another wall. Rather, Gras et al. teaches an opening 40 which has a rosette fastener formed therein having equally spaced, triangular legs 41-44 therein. Thus, there is simply no teaching or motivation in Gras et al. to extend the opening into an adjacent wall. Gras teaches away from the arrangement recited in claim 1, since the opening in Gras serves as a fastening device. There is no suggestion in Gras to form the opening 40 as a slot extending from one wall to the next. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 13 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

New claim 21 has been added to recite a rod hanger adapter in combination with a cabinet assembly. The cabinet assembly has a pair of lances extending from an inside wall of the cabinet. The rod hanger adapter has a pair of walls each with an opening having a linear upper edge for receiving one of the lances. A third wall has a slot for receiving an associated rod. Claim 22 calls for the rod hanger adapter to further have a fourth wall with a notch having a linear upper edge. Claim 23 calls for the notch to be formed in a lower edge of the fourth wall. Claim 24 calls for a longitudinal axis of the notch to be aligned with a longitudinal axis of the opening. Claim 25 calls for the slot formed in the second wall to extend into the third wall.

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a rod hanger adapter used with a cabinet, wherein the adapter has holes with linear edges which receive lances on a cabinet wall or a slot for receiving a rod. Thus, claim 21 and claims 22-25 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

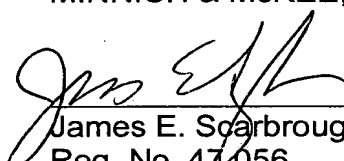
In view of the above amendments, comments, and arguments presented, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

Allowance of all claims and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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4/12/05
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